

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, wherein the controller comprises a switch that is closeable to apply a specific AC voltage to the heating element if the beverage apparatus is operated in an area with the specific voltage and to apply a different AC voltage to the heating element if the beverage heating apparatus is operated in an area with a different AC voltage.
3. (currently amended) The beverage apparatus of claim 2, wherein the controller comprises a processor that ~~signals~~ controls the switch ~~to close the switch~~.
4. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 2, wherein the switch comprises a triac.
5. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a solenoid to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.
6. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 5, wherein the solenoid is operable to dispense a beverage.
7. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a valve to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.
8. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 7, wherein the valve is operable to dispense a beverage concentrate.
9. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a pump to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.
10. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 9, wherein the pump is operable to move a beverage concentrate.
11. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a sensor to which is coupled a signal derived from the DC voltage output of the power supply.
12. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a pump having a rotatable shaft and the sensor senses a speed at which the shaft rotates.

13. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 11, the apparatus further comprising a heated water tank, the heating element being operatively associated with the heated water tank for heating water retained in the tank, wherein the sensor senses a temperature of the heated element being operatively associated with the heated water tank for heating water retained in the tank wherein the sensor senses a temperature of the heated water.

14. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a cooling cabinet and the sensor senses a temperature of a portion of the cooling cabinet.

15. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a heat sink and the sensor senses a temperature of a portion of the heat sink.

16. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 11, wherein the sensor comprises a conductance sensor.

17. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a fan to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.

18. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a cooling cabinet that is cooled by the fan.

19. (original) The beverage apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a heat sink that is cooled by the fan.

20. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a motor to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.

21. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a display to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.

22. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a light to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.

23. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising an alarm to which the DC voltage output of the power supply is coupled.

24. (previously presented) The beverage apparatus of claim 30, further comprising an auxiliary power supply configured to convert the DC voltage output of the power supply to another power supply voltage.

25. (canceled).

26. (previously presented) The beverage heating apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a temperature sensor that is coupled to the controller and that provides a signal to the controller which is indicative of a temperature of the liquid in the container.

27. (previously presented) The beverage heating apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a switch coupled to controller and coupled to the heating element, the controller opening and closing the switch to control heating of the liquid in the container, the domestic AC voltage being applied to the heating element when the switch is closed when the beverage heating apparatus is operated domestically, and the foreign AC voltage being applied to the heating element when the switch is closed when the beverage heating apparatus is operated in a foreign country.

28. (previously presented) The beverage heating apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a dispensing valve and a refill valve, the dispensing valve being coupled to the controller and openable to allow the liquid to flow out of the container, and the refill valve being coupled to the controller and openable to allow the container to be refilled automatically after a predetermined amount of liquid has been dispensed from the container.

29. (currently amended) A method of heating a liquid using an apparatus that is operable by a supply voltage that is either a domestic AC voltage or a foreign AC voltage, the method comprising:

- providing a container for retaining a liquid to be heated;

- providing a heating element;

- coupling the heating element directly to the supply voltage regardless of whether the supply voltage is the domestic AC voltage or the foreign AC voltage;

- providing a power supply capable of receiving a variety of input voltages;

- coupling an input of the power supply directly to the supply voltage regardless of whether the supply voltage is the domestic AC voltage or the foreign AC voltage;

- providing a fixed DC output from the power supply;

- providing a controller; coupling the controller to the fixed DC output from the power supply;

- operating user inputs to signal the controller coupled to the fixed DC voltage output to control the operation of the heating element to heat liquid contained in a container.

30. (currently amended) A beverage apparatus that is operable over a range of AC voltages, the beverage apparatus including:

a power supply having an input that couples to an AC voltage source, the power supply having a fixed DC voltage output of substantially a predetermined value regardless of the AC voltage within the range of AC voltages;

a heating element directly coupled to the AC voltage source in parallel with the power supply; and

a controller coupled to the DC voltage output to receive power from the power supply, the controller being configured to control the operation of the heating element.

31. (currently amended) A beverage heating apparatus that is operable either by a domestic AC voltage or by a foreign AC voltage, the beverage heating apparatus comprising:

a container for retaining a liquid to be heated;

a power supply having an input that ~~coupled~~ couples directly to a domestic AC voltage when the beverage heating apparatus is operated domestically and ~~coupled~~ couples directly to a foreign AC voltage when the beverage heating apparatus is operated in a foreign country, the power supply having a fixed DC voltage output of substantially a predetermined value regardless of whether the input is coupled to the domestic AC voltage or the foreign AC voltage;

a heating element coupled directly to the domestic AC voltage when the beverage heating apparatus is operated domestically and coupled directly to the foreign AC voltage when the beverage heating apparatus is operated in a foreign country, the heating element being operable to heat the liquid retained in the container;

a controller coupled to the DC voltage output to receive power from the power supply, the controller being configured to control the operation of the heating element.